United Nations S/2016/546

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 June 2016

Original: English

Implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015)

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is the twenty-eighth submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), paragraph 10 of Council resolution 2165 (2014), paragraph 5 of Council resolution 2191 (2014) and paragraph 5 of Council resolution 2258 (2015), in which the Council requested me to report, every 30 days, on the implementation of the resolutions by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. The information contained herein is based on the data available to United Nations agencies on the ground, from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, other Syrian sources and open sources. Data from United Nations agencies on their humanitarian deliveries have been reported for the period from 1 to 31 May 2016. More recent data have been included when available.

II. Major developments

A. Developments on the ground

3. During the reporting period, the cessation of hostilities faced its most significant threat since it entered into force on 27 February. On 24 May, 39 non-State armed opposition groups issued a statement in which they threatened to withdraw from the cessation of hostilities within 48 hours, although they remained silent after the ultimatum expired. Efforts by the International Syria Support Group and the United Nations to reduce the violence continued. On 5 May, the United States of America and the Russian Federation brokered a 48-hour "regime of silence", which was established in Aleppo. On 24 May, a 72-hour "regime of silence" was launched to cover Darayya and eastern Ghutah, Rif Dimashq governorate.

4. In line with resolution 2258 (2015), the following description of developments on the ground reports on the compliance by all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic with resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014). This information is without prejudice to the work of the International Syria Support Group Task Force on the Ceasefire.

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5. Fighting continued during the reporting period, especially in Aleppo, Idlib, Hama, Homs, Ladhiqiyah and Rif Dimashq governorates. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported that the number of violations and abuses of international human rights law, violations of international humanitarian law and abuses of human rights documented during the reporting period rose significantly in certain areas, such as Aleppo and Rif Dimashq, compared with previous months.

6. In a note verbale to OHCHR dated 6 June, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic informed the Office that, in May, more than 270 persons had allegedly been killed and more than 653 injured as a result of "terrorist" attacks. It provided a detailed list of casualties in the governorates of Aleppo, Damascus, Dayr al-Zawr, Hama, Hasakah, Homs, Idlib, Ladhiqiyah, Rif Dimashq and Tartus. While some incidents, such as those in Ladhiqiyah and Tartus, probably corresponded to those recorded by OHCHR, the Office was unable to independently verify those allegations.

7. Open sources, including monitoring groups, reported a higher death toll in May as a result of actions by all parties to the conflict. The United Nations was not able to independently verify those allegations, however.

8. In Rif Dimashq governorate, heavy fighting continued in several areas. Government forces assumed control over the entire southern sector of eastern Ghutah, including full control over the hitherto-besieged area of Zabdin, and made further gains in the eastern sector towards Nashabiyah during May. The fighting resulted in civilian casualties and led to the displacement of several thousand civilians to the central and northern sectors of eastern Ghutah, predominantly to Kafr Batna, and Misraba. OHCHR documented attacks by pro-government forces and non-State armed opposition groups, as well as between non-State armed opposition groups, that resulted in civilian casualties. Air strikes and shelling were reported in several towns, including Duma, Shawfuniyah, Dayr al-Asafir, Marjah and Buzaynah.

9. In western Ghutah, government forces reportedly conducted an offensive on the besieged town of Darayya. Reports of shelling by non-State armed opposition groups in Darayya were also recorded. On 12 May, shortly after a convoy of the United Nations, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the International Committee of the Red Cross was denied entry to Darayya by the government authorities, pro-government forces reportedly fired shells on to the town, killing two people. Furthermore, OHCHR received reports indicating that at least six civilians had been killed and several others injured in the fighting in and around Darayya during the second half of May.

10. Heavy fighting between government forces and non-State armed opposition groups was reported in the Khan al-Shih area of Rif Dimashq, resulting in multiple deaths and injuries to civilians. On 17 May, shells struck a civilian minibus travelling along the only remaining route out of Khan al-Shih, reportedly killing seven civilians. Later the same day, air strikes hit the Martyr Ziyad al-Bikal field hospital, putting the facility out of service. No casualties were reported.

11. On 11 June, in the Damascus suburb of Sayyidah Zainab, in the vicinity of the Qabr al-Sitt camp, two explosions left at least 14 civilians, including five Palestine refugees, dead and many others wounded. That was the fourth such attack in

Sayyidah Zainab in 2016. Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) claimed responsibility for the attacks.

12. Intensified fighting between various parties continued in several parts of Aleppo governorate. A high tempo of air strikes and shelling by pro-government forces of areas of the city of Aleppo controlled by non-State armed groups was recorded. For example, on 4 May, the Ballirmun district was allegedly hit by several air strikes, killing six persons. On 17 May, Rashidin district was allegedly hit by several air strikes, killing two children. On 30 May, air strikes hit residential buildings in Sukkari and Kallasah, in eastern Aleppo, killing at least 16 civilians and injuring another 30, according to first responders. On 31 May, a mortar hit the Ihsan Charity Medical Centre. The attack injured 45 persons and the hospital sustained physical damage. Early in June, the Bayan hospital in eastern Aleppo was hit, killing at least 10 people and damaging the facility. Meanwhile, the city of Aleppo is still suffering from heavily reduced basic services, with the electricity supply reportedly limited to 10 hours a week and water for 1 day out of every 10.

13. At the same time, non-State armed opposition groups continued their attacks on government-held areas of the city of Aleppo. According to information received by OHCHR, in the first half of May, mortars hit a number of western Aleppo neighbourhoods, including Salah al-Din, Sulaymaniyah, Khalidiyah and Maydan, killing several civilians, injuring many more and causing substantial damage to residential buildings. For example, on 3 May, the Dubayt maternity hospital in western Aleppo was hit and put out of service, although OHCHR was unable to confirm exactly how that occurred. Reports from the government-controlled Syrian Arab News Agency stated that shells fired from parts of Aleppo controlled by non-State armed opposition groups had hit the hospital, leaving 3 civilians dead and at least 15 others injured. Between 19 and 21 May, the United Nations hub in western Aleppo was hit by several rockets, with no casualties among United Nations staff.

14. Fighting, including sniper fire and rocket attacks, between members of the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units and non-State armed groups continued along the Castillo road, one of the last remaining major supply routes into the eastern part of the city of Aleppo, where some 300,000 people reside. An aerial bombardment along the road during May was also reported. The road is frequently closed when fighting intensifies, then re-opened when it abates. Air strikes were also reported in adjacent villages north of the road. For example, on 26 May, an air strike on the village of Anadan reportedly injured more than 10 civilians. On 27 May, five air strikes on the town of Kafr Hamra allegedly killed a woman and injured seven other civilians. The same day, an air strike hit a bakery in Huraytan, reportedly killing at least 10 civilians and injuring dozens.

15. Fighting between non-State armed opposition groups and ISIL continued in northern Aleppo governorate. An ISIL offensive on the towns of Mari' and I'zaz and the surrounding area led to numerous civilian casualties and the displacement of some 35,000 people by late May. ISIL took further control of several villages controlled by non-State armed opposition groups situated on the approaches to Mari' and I'zaz. Civilians remaining in partially surrounded Mari' were allowed unimpeded access by non-State armed opposition groups to adjacent towns, with medical staff also being allowed in and out of the only remaining operational hospital.

16. In Idlib governorate, mutual shelling between the parties and intensified pro-government air strikes continued throughout the reporting period, killing and injuring civilians. On 5 May, the Kamunah and Ghita al-Rahmah informal settlements for displaced persons, located south of the town of Sarmada, were hit by what initial reports suggested was an air strike. Both the Syrian and the Russian authorities denied launching the attacks, stating that the explosions had been caused by shells or grenades fired by non-State armed opposition groups. First responders reported that at least 30 civilians had been killed and dozens others injured. Air strikes were also reported in other parts of Idlib, including the city of Idlib, Ariha, Ma'rrat al-Nu'man, Khan Shaykhun, Binnish and Hafsarjah. As a result, some 70 civilians were killed and many more injured, according to information received by OHCHR. Civilian infrastructure was also affected. For example, on 13 May, air strikes struck Ariha, hitting a local gynaecology and obstetrics hospital and injuring civilians. On 30 May, air strikes hit the national hospital in the city of Idlib, killing at least 26 civilians and injuring dozens more. A second air strike in the vicinity of Ibn Sina Hospital caused no casualties.

17. Non-State armed opposition groups continued to shell the besieged towns of Fu'ah and Kafraya in Idlib governorate. On 8 May, a civilian was reportedly killed and others were injured when mortars were fired at the besieged towns. Another three were reportedly killed in a similar attack on Fu'ah on 24 May. Shelling was also reported on 31 May, but no casualties were recorded.

18. On 23 May, terrorist attacks hit the coastal towns of Jablah, Ladhiqiyah governorate, and Tartus, Tartus governorate. Four explosions hit Jablah: one at the national hospital, one at the electricity directorate and two at a bus station. Two explosions occurred at a bus station in Tartus, with a third in a nearby residential area. OHCHR received reports that scores of people had been killed. The Government informed OHCHR in a note verbale dated 6 June that 40 people had been killed and 81 injured in the attacks in Tartus, while 122 people had been killed and 148 injured in the attacks in Jablah. Most of those killed or injured are believed to be civilians. ISIL claimed responsibility for the attacks. I released a statement in which I condemned the attacks. According to open sources, following the attacks, unidentified armed individuals allegedly attacked the Karnak shelter for internally displaced persons, south of Tartus, with multiple tents reportedly destroyed.

19. In Hama governorate, on 12 May, Nusrah Front and Ahrar al-Sham fighters advanced on the village of Zarah and areas around Harbinafsah in the southern countryside. A number of civilians were allegedly executed and others kidnapped. In a note verbale to OHCHR, the Syrian authorities indicated that seven civilians, including three women, had been killed in the attack and another seven injured. They added that 130 persons had been taken to undisclosed locations, providing the names of 61 of them. According to open sources, government forces later conducted air strikes on and shelled areas controlled by non-State armed opposition groups around Harbinafsah, Lataminah and Kafr Zayta.

20. In Homs governorate, fighting continued between ISIL and government forces in the eastern countryside. On 5 May, ISIL seized control of the Sh'ir oil field and pushed further to take control of several positions adjacent to the Jazal oil field on 17 May. On 5 May, ISIL reportedly conducted dual suicide attacks in Mukharram Fawqani in the eastern countryside, allegedly killing 12 people and injuring 40 others.

21. Fighting between government forces and ISIL continued in Dayr al-Zawr governorate, killing and injuring civilians. On 1 May, ISIL fighters fired mortar rounds into the besieged Jurah and Qusur neighbourhoods of the city of Dayr al-Zawr, reportedly killing two people. Some six people were killed and dozens more injured during other attacks in May. On 14 May, ISIL took over Assad Hospital for a few hours before being forced to withdraw. ISIL took some medical staff hostage and their whereabouts remains unknown. Meanwhile, in rural Dayr al-Zawr, several villages, including Muhaymidah, Junaynah, Hasanah and Ji'a, were hit by air strikes on 1 May. In Ji'a, 11 civilians were reportedly killed and some 10 injured. On 16 May, several air strikes on Albu Kamal reportedly killed three children. The origin of the air strikes could not be verified.

22. In Raqqah governorate, the Syrian Democratic Forces, supported by the United States-led coalition, launched an offensive against ISIL, including towards the city of Raqqah. Civilians were affected by the fighting: on 2 May, several air strikes hit Raqqah, including the area known as the "17th Division", located approximately 4 km outside the city and close to Ibn Rushd Garden and the power station. The raids allegedly killed at least 23 civilians and injured some 50 others. On 3 May, the United States Central Command stated that, on 2 May, the United States-led coalition had carried out two strikes near Raqqah targeting an ISIL "finance station" and "weapon storage factory". On 19 May, several air strikes on the village of Hamrah, in the east of the governorate, reportedly killed three children and their mother.

23. In Hasakah governorate, fighting involving government forces, Kurdish forces and listed terrorist groups continued to result in civilian casualties. On 18 May, military clashes erupted between pro-government militiamen and Kurdish police in the city of Hasakah. The clashes reportedly began after a disagreement over the administration of high school exams. On the same day, three primary school pupils were killed in the crossfire that resulted from infighting between the Sutoro armed group and the National Defence Forces in the vicinity of the national hospital in the city. Elsewhere, on 21 May, a restaurant in Qamishli was attacked with hand grenades, followed by two suicide attacks, reportedly killing at least three civilians and injuring eight others. ISIL claimed responsibility for the attack.

24. Fighting continued in the southern Syrian Arab Republic during the reporting period. On 19 May, non-State armed opposition groups launched a military operation against government forces in the northern countryside of Dar'a. In Musayfirah, shelling reportedly hit a settlement for internally displaced persons, resulting in several civilian casualties. Fighting also continued between non-State armed opposition groups and the Nusrah Front and ISIL-affiliated groups in the western countryside of Dar'a. Meanwhile, aerial bombardments continued to affect parts of Dar'a and Qunaytirah governorates, although no major displacement was reported.

25. The United States Central Command confirmed that at least 156 strikes had been carried out in May by the United States-led coalition against ISIL targets in Aleppo, Dayr al-Zawr Hasakah, Homs and Raqqah governorates. The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, meanwhile, provided no information on its operations in May, although in its briefing of 27 May it indicated that it would continue with military operations against ISIL and the Nusrah Front, and that strikes against "illegal oil production facilities" had intensified since 20 May. OHCHR received various reports of air strikes allegedly conducted by international actors

that caused civilian casualties. OHCHR was unable to adequately ascertain responsibility for those attacks, however.

26. There were developments with respect to several local agreements during the reporting period. The local ceasefire agreement pertaining to Wa'r district in Homs, which entered into force in December 2015, remained suspended owing to disagreements over the implementation of some aspects, including the status of detainees. The area was added to the list of locations designated as besieged by the United Nations as at 28 May following the closure by the Government of the main road to the district since early March and restrictions on freedom of movement for civilians. In May, the district came under sporadic attack by surrounding pro-government forces, causing civilian casualties. On 16 May, a woman was killed and several others were injured by shelling. On 18 May, shooting was reported, allegedly causing several injuries. Reports of shelling from Wa'r into government-controlled areas were also recorded. On 30 May, 153 twelfth graders and 68 ninth graders from Wa'r were permitted to leave the besieged neighbourhood to sit their exams.

27. In the besieged area of Mu'addamiyah in Rif Dimashq, negotiations continued between the Government and the local negotiation committee. Both sides implemented goodwill gestures. On 29 May, the local negotiation committee raised the Syrian flag over the municipal building and removed barricades inside the town. The Government allowed some humanitarian assistance, including bread, to enter the town, although the amounts and type of assistance were insufficient to meet the full needs of residents. The Government also permitted some medical evacuations. Both sides agreed to continue discussions on the local agreement in order to overcome controversial issues.

28. The secretary-general of Hizbullah, Hassan Nasrallah, offered his condolences upon the killing of a senior Hizbullah commander in the Syrian Arab Republic, Mustafa Badr al-Din, in Damascus on 13 May. As on previous occasions, he acknowledged the presence of Hizbullah fighters in the country and promised to increase the presence.

B. Human rights

29. OHCHR continued to receive reports of serious violations and abuses of human rights, including arbitrary detentions and extrajudicial killings, in government-run detention facilities and by non-State armed opposition groups. On 7 May, a 15-year-old boy reportedly died after having been tortured at a military security branch in Damascus. He had been arrested in 2014 at a government checkpoint in the city of Dayr al-Zawr while on his way to school to sit his exams.

30. On 1 May, political detainees began rioting in Hama central prison, taking at least six guards hostage. The unrest was reportedly triggered by the attempted transfer of five detainees to Saydnaya prison, where it was feared that death sentences allegedly handed down against them would be carried out. On 8 May, both sides reached an agreement by which 500 political detainees would be released, as would the guards. The guards were subsequently released, while the detainees are being released in batches, with several released each day, although there have been reports of no detainees having been released on certain days. The situation remains tense.

31. In Rif Dimashq governorate, OHCHR received reports that non-State armed opposition groups in Khan al-Shih were mistreating captured members of pro-government forces during continuing fighting in the area.

32. On 5 May, Kurdish forces reportedly detained 30 men at checkpoints in the area of Ayn al-Arus, located south of Tall Abyad; the men were accused of cooperating with ISIL. Their whereabouts remains unknown.

33. Between 22 and 24 May, residents of Kafr Nubl protested against the arbitrary detention of dozens of the town's residents by the Nusrah Front. In Saraqib, Idlib governorate, on 20 May, residents protested against the execution of a male resident by the Nusrah Front following what protesters stated was an unfair trial by an illegitimate court. The group also reportedly publicly executed two civilians at the Salqin roundabout in Saraqib on 20 May; the men had been accused of collaborating with the Government.

34. On 3 May, in Tabaqah marketplace, ISIL publicly beheaded a male civilian accused of spying for coalition forces. On 23 May, ISIL publicly stoned a 16-year-old boy accused of homosexuality.

35. Fighting between non-State armed opposition groups in eastern Ghutah allegedly resulted in the death of an obstetrician in his home in Duma on 3 May by a stray bullet. On 17 May, in Bayt Siwa, two civilians, including a woman, were reportedly killed in cross-fire that resulted from infighting.

C. Humanitarian response

36. In May, United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners continued to reach millions of people in need through all modalities, from within the Syrian Arab Republic and across borders, pursuant to resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015) (see table 1). Non-governmental organizations also continued to deliver assistance, in line with previous months. The Government continued to provide basic services to areas under its control and in many areas beyond its control.

Table 1
Number of people reached by United Nations system organizations in May 2016

Organization	*Number of people reached*
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	57 750
International Organization for Migration	55 556
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	701 533
United Nations Children's Fund	1 600 000
United Nations Development Programme	1 500 000 (41,452 directly and 1,475,335 indirectly)
United Nations Population Fund	46 780
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	352 686
World Food Programme	4 000 000
World Health Organization	1 480 707 (treatments)

37. Cross-border deliveries continued during the reporting period. In May, 20 consignments consisting of 559 trucks crossed from Turkey and Jordan to the Syrian Arab Republic under the terms of resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015), benefiting millions of people (see annex, map 1, for more information on United Nations cross-border convoys in May). Eight of those consignments crossed from Bab al-Hawa (389 trucks), four from Bab al-Salam (26 trucks) and eight from Ramtha (144 trucks).

38. In line with Security Council resolutions, the United Nations notified the Syrian authorities in advance of each shipment, including of its content, destination and number of beneficiaries. The United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic continued its operations, monitoring 559 trucks in the 20 consignments in May, confirming the humanitarian nature of each and notifying the Syrian authorities after each shipment. The Mechanism continued to benefit from excellent cooperation with the Governments of Jordan and Turkey.

39. In May, inter-agency convoys to the besieged and hard-to-reach locations listed in table 2 were completed (see annex, map 2, for more information on access to besieged and hard-to-reach locations). From 10 April to 12 June, the World Food Programme (WFP) successfully completed 51 airdrop rotations, delivering food items sufficient to cover some 100,000 people with 41 kg family food rations that included chickpeas, beans, rice and vegetable oil, lentils, bulgur wheat, salt and sugar. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continued to reach Yarmouk residents by providing assistance in adjacent neighbourhoods, from which they could collect the aid.

Table 2
Inter-agency convoys at the end of April and in May 2016

Date	*Location*	*Number of beneficiaries*	*Type of assistance*
27 April and 2 May	Talbisah	60 000	Multisectoral assistance. During the loading of the convoy on 27 April, the Syrian authorities removed some psychotropic and anaesthetic medicines.
4 and 8 May	Qaryatayn	3 250	Multisectoral assistance.
6 May	Bludan	35 000	Health, education, non-food items and water, sanitation and hygiene materials.
18 May	Eastern Harasta	10 000	Multisectoral assistance. Several health items, such as surgical and burn kits, basic health kits, scissors and parts of midwifery kits, were not approved/ removed by the Syrian authorities.
22 May	Qadsiya	25 000	Multisectoral assistance. Several health items, such as surgical and burn kits, basic health kits, scissors and parts of midwifery and diarrhoea treatment kits, were not approved/removed by the Syrian authorities.
22 May	Hamah	15 000	Multisectoral assessments and medical assistance. Several health items, such as surgical and burn kits, basic health kits, scissors, parts of midwifery and diarrhoea treatment kits, were not approved/ removed by the Syrian authorities.
25 May	Hulah	71 000	Food, nutrition, hygiene kits and educational materials.

40. United Nations agencies also undertook single-agency deliveries to cross-line and hard-to-reach locations, or reached those locations through their regular programmes during the reporting period. For example, WFP reached 368,515 people in 14 hard-to-reach and besieged locations in seven governorates. The World Health Organization (WHO) and its implementing partners delivered assistance to 212,158 people across conflict lines. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reached some 220,000 people in besieged and hard-to-reach locations in Rif Dimashq and Homs governorates through its regular programmes. In Yalda, UNRWA continued the provision of humanitarian assistance, including that of 10,800 food parcels and 10,800 hygiene kits, in addition to health consultations for 1,367 residents from Yarmouk, Babila, Bayt Sahm and Yalda, and an additional 147 dental consultations. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supported 200 pupils from hard-to-reach areas who sat their final exams in the city of Aleppo through the distribution of mattresses, blankets, jerrycans and kitchen sets at six schools that had been designated by the Ministry of Education as temporary shelters during the exam period.

Humanitarian access

41. The delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in need of assistance remained extremely challenging in many areas as a result of deliberate restrictions by the parties on the movement of people and goods, active conflict and shifting conflict lines.

42. Access to the 4.6 million people living in besieged, hard-to-reach and priority cross-line locations as at 31 May remained of critical concern. Only two besieged areas and six hard-to-reach locations could be accessed in May through UNRWA and inter-agency convoys: eastern Harasta, Yarmouk, Talbisah, Qaryatayn, Bludan, Qudssiya, Hameh and Hulah. The United Nations also continued to reach those in besieged Dayr al-Zawr through airdrops, although several weeks of airdrops have delivered an amount of food equivalent to only one road convoy. Overall, the United Nations agencies and partners reached 55 of the 154 besieged and hard-to-reach areas (36 per cent) through either inter-agency convoys or single agency deliveries. Details on the assistance to those areas in May are contained in table 3.

Table 3
United Nations deliveries to hard-to-reach, besieged and priority cross-line locations, May 2016

Sector (United Nations delivery only)	*Number of people reached (as a percentage of 4.6 million)*
Food security	398 000 (8.7)
Health (treatments)	841 000 (18.3)
Non-food items	60 000 (1.3)
Water, sanitation and hygiene	128 350 (2.8)

43. Active conflict in several governorates hindered the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance and people's access to essential services. Markets, schools, medical centres and other civilian infrastructure were damaged as a result of fighting in May, reducing the availability of basic and essential services in critical areas. The offices of the United Nations and local non-governmental organizations

were also damaged. The fighting also disrupted humanitarian supply lines to communities at risk. For example, the security situation along the Castillo road resulted in the suspension of humanitarian deliveries to the eastern part of the city of Aleppo several times in May and early June. The United Nations and its partners have pre-positioned supplies in case of further access constraints in and around Aleppo. Meanwhile, in northern Aleppo governorate, health partners had to evacuate four hospitals and several primary health facilities and suspend their primary and secondary health activities in and around I'zaz and the Mari' area following an ISIL offensive. Elsewhere, several approved inter-agency convoys to hard-to-reach areas, including the subdistricts of Harbinafsah, Kafr Zayta and Madiq Castle, were put on hold at the request of the Government until security conditions improved.

44. Deliberate interference and restrictions by the parties also continued to prevent aid delivery. For example, WFP continued to be unable to gain access to populations in need in ISIL-controlled areas of the country, given that all plans to deliver assistance to those areas are suspended owing to the inability to work independently and monitor activities. That is preventing WFP from reaching Raqqah and most of Dayr al-Zawr governorates and certain areas in northern rural Aleppo, southern rural Hasakah and north-western rural Hama. As regards the situation in Khan al-Shih, UNRWA submitted a note verbale to the Syrian authorities to request approval for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the area. That request was denied on 12 May.

45. On 19 May, the United Nations submitted its inter-agency convoy plan for June that included requests to reach 1.1 million beneficiaries across 34 besieged, hard-to-reach and priority cross-line locations. On 5 June, the United Nations submitted a written request to the Syrian authorities reiterating its request for full approval to deliver overland assistance to areas that had been partially approved or not approved under the plan. The United Nations also sought access by air to Darayya, Duma and Moadamiya in Rif Dimashq governorate and to Wa'r in Homs governorate, should overland access to any of those locations not be granted by 10 June.

46. By 14 June, in response to the plan, the Syrian authorities granted approval in full to 16 locations for 355,250 people; 14 locations were partially approved, with restrictions on the type of assistance and/or a reduction in the number of approved beneficiaries to 396,200 (a difference of 176,800 between the number requested and the approved target); and 4 locations, with a total of 208,500 people, were not approved. Of the 17 besieged areas requested, the United Nations has approvals to reach 16, reaching either the full population in need or part thereof. In total, for June, the Government authorized the United Nations to deliver assistance to 68 per cent of the requested population in need under the plan: delivery in full to 32 per cent and delivery with conditions to 36 per cent. Unapproved or only partially approved requests mean that 32 per cent of planned beneficiaries will not be reached. The Syrian authorities have also approved eight additional locations not requested by the United Nations.

47. The Nusaybin/Qamishli crossing in Hasakah governorate has been temporarily closed by the Turkish authorities owing to security concerns since 27 December 2015 (the crossing is not authorized for use under resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015)). WFP stocks of monthly family food rations in the governorate were completely exhausted in March 2016. Currently, WFP has only ready-to-eat parcels available sufficient for up to 5,420 people there. The delivery of

food assistance for a planned 275,000 people in May could not take place. However, WFP provided emergency stocks of ready-to-eat rations to 10,630 people staying in shelters for internally displaced persons in the cities of Qamishli and Hasakah. The United Nations sent a note verbale on 23 May to the Syrian authorities requesting access to Qamishli by air from Damascus. On 2 June, the Syrian authorities agreed to the implementation of an air bridge into Hasakah governorate from Damascus. Separately, on 26 May and 1 June, UNHCR airlifted non-food items for some 50,000 people to Qamishli from Amman.

48. As at 31 May, 113 visas for United Nations staff had been approved, of which 58 were new visas and 55 renewals. Some 27 requests remained pending, and 4 had been rejected.

49. A total of 16 international non-governmental organizations are authorized to operate in the Syrian Arab Republic. Five more have applications pending approval by the Government. International non-governmental organizations continued to face administrative hurdles and restrictions that affect their ability to operate, including in gaining permission to undertake independent needs assessments.

50. The number of national non-governmental organizations authorized to partner with United Nations organizations increased from 145 to 147 in May, with two added to the list in Homs and Damascus governorates. Authorized national non-governmental organizations continued to operate under complex procedures in partnering with United Nations agencies.

Besieged areas

51. The number of people living in areas designated by the United Nations as besieged currently stands at 590,200. That is up from 517,700 in my previous report, following the addition of the Wa'r district of the city of Homs. Meanwhile, Zabadin has been removed from the list of besieged areas in eastern Ghutah following the retaking of the town by the Government. Humanitarian conditions in besieged areas continue to be dire. The United Nations has been standing by ready to deliver assistance to all besieged locations as soon as access is granted. In besieged areas, the flow of commercial supplies through official routes remained largely blocked, leading to high prices for commodities reaching besieged areas through unofficial and irregular supply lines. Freedom of movement remained heavily restricted, although limited numbers are sporadically allowed to exit and re-enter some besieged areas. Indications of severe trauma were observed during inter-agency convoys to besieged areas, with children being particularly affected. Meanwhile, significant numbers of children appear to have been recruited into armed groups, with many boys under 18 years of age — in uniform or plain clothes — brandishing weapons.

52. In May, the United Nations and its partners assisted some 130,000 people in besieged areas (21 per cent of the total besieged population) through inter-agency convoys, WFP airdrops, UNRWA operations and other single-agency operations.

53. In eastern Ghutah, Rif Dimashq, some 282,500 people remain besieged by government forces in Duma, eastern Harasta, Arbin, Zamalka, Ain Tarma, Hammura, Jisrein, Kafr Batna and Saqba. Zabadin is no longer considered besieged following its full retaking by the Government in May, with the population fleeing to other parts of eastern Ghutah, including Kafr Batna and Misraba. On 18 May, an inter-agency convoy of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the International Committee

of the Red Cross and the United Nations reached besieged eastern Harasta with food and other humanitarian supplies for 10,000 people — the first delivery since March 2013. Several health items, such as surgical and burn kits, basic health kits, scissors and parts of midwifery kits, were not approved by the Ministry of Health. Elsewhere, on 25 May, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivered a small quantity of medicines and school bags to Duma. On 10 June, the United Nations and partners completed the first of a multi-phase delivery to bring food, nutritional items, health, hygiene and other humanitarian supplies to some 40,000 people in Duma.

54. In Madaya and Bquine, in Rif Dimashq governorate, some 43,000 people remain besieged by government forces. On 15 May, the Syrian authorities allowed 68 pupils and a few teachers to exit/enter Madaya to sit their final exams. An inter-agency convoy with multisectoral assistance for 40,000 people is pending the parties making final arrangements to facilitate safe passage for the convoys, as part of the Four Towns agreement.

55. In Zabadani, Rif Dimashq governorate, some 700 people remain besieged by government forces. Although not approved under the May plan, a multisectoral convoy is pending the parties making final arrangements to facilitate safe passage for the convoys, as part of the Four Towns agreement.

56. In Fu'ah and Kefraya, Idlib governorate, some 20,000 people remain besieged by non-State armed opposition groups and the Nusrah Front. An inter-agency convoy with multisectoral assistance for 20,000 people is pending the parties making final arrangements to facilitate safe passage for the convoys, as part of the Four Towns agreement.

57. In Darayya, Rif Dimashq governorate, about 4,000 people remain besieged by government forces. Under the May plan, the Syrian authorities granted conditional approval for Darayya, limiting the delivery of assistance to baby milk and school and medical supplies. Notwithstanding the guarantees and approvals received from the Syrian authorities, a convoy and assessment mission planned for 12 May was aborted following extensive negotiations on the content of the convoy. Following intense negotiations at various levels, an inter-agency convoy was finally deployed on 1 June to Darayya to deliver initial assistance, consisting of medical supplies, vaccines and nutritional items for children. That was the first time the United Nations had entered the town with assistance in nearly four years, and followed an assessment mission on 16 April. On 9 June, the United Nations and its partners delivered food, nutrition, health and medical, water, sanitation and hygiene and education assistance to Darayya, as a follow-up to the initial convoy. According to unconfirmed reports, dozens of barrel bombs were reportedly dropped on Darayya the following day.

58. In Madamiyet Elsham, Rif Dimashq governorate, about 45,000 people remain besieged by government forces. Under the May plan, the Syrian authorities granted conditional approval, limiting the delivery of assistance to certain types and quantities of aid supplies. An inter-agency convoy that was supposed to reach the town on 14 May was, however, unable to deploy owing to a lack of final approval. Following intense negotiations at various levels, on 1 and 3 June, inter-agency convoys were finally deployed to the town to deliver food and health supplies for 45,000 people. The third phase of those convoys was approved on 7 June.

59. In Yarmouk, Damascus governorate, some 10,000 people have been besieged by government forces and non-State armed opposition groups. UNRWA humanitarian

missions into Yalda resumed on 2 May and continued uninterrupted throughout the month. During May, 6,000 civilian families from Yarmouk, Yalda, Babila and Bayt Sahm received food parcels and hygiene kits and 1,367 refugees received health services, including 147 dental consultations.

60. In the government-controlled western neighbourhoods of the city of Dayr al-Zawr, some 110,000 people have been besieged by ISIL. From 10 April to 12 June, WFP successfully completed 51 airdrop rotations. The quantities airdropped to date are sufficient to provide a 41 kg ration to all households registered by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

61. In Wa'r, in Homs governorate, about 75,000 people have been besieged by government forces. The first phase of a convoy delivering multisectoral assistance could not proceed on 5 May, even though facilitation letters had been received and trucks loaded. The convoy was put on hold at the request of the Government, and security personnel were requested to offload the trucks. On 30 May, 153 twelfth graders and 68 ninth graders from Wa'r were allowed to leave the besieged neighbourhood to sit their exams. On 11 June, a joint mission of the Office of the Resident Coordinator and the Office of my Special Envoy for Syria to Homs was conducted in order to diffuse tensions between the Government and the Wa'r local committee. On 14 June, written approval was received for an inter-agency convoy to Wa'r.

Attacks on medical facilities and free passage of medical supplies, personnel and equipment

62. In blatant disregard for the special protected status of health-care facilities under international humanitarian law, and for resolution 2286 (2016), adopted on 3 May, medical facilities continued to be damaged or destroyed as a result of fighting. The United Nations and health partners have received reports, which are being verified, of 10 attacks on medical facilities in May. Several attacks early in June have also already been reported.

63. WHO and UNICEF continued to implement the nationwide vaccination campaign. The component of the campaign from within the Syrian Arab Republic began on 24 April and lasted for four days, reaching some 260,000 of a targeted 550,000 children in 10 governorates. Areas not reached as a result of insecurity and access challenges included parts of Damascus, Hama and Rif Dimashq governorates. As to Idlib governorate, non-State armed opposition groups refused vaccine delivery and campaign implementation. On 26 May, the cross-border component of the nationwide campaign began in Idlib and Hama and in some parts of Aleppo. In the first six days of the campaign, more than 200,000 of a target of some 500,000 children for those three governorates were vaccinated. Insecurity has hampered the campaign: the intensified air strikes in Aleppo and Idlib towards the end of May resulted in major access problems, and the campaign was suspended for four days in the city of Idlib because of insecurity. The campaign has not been rolled out in parts of Raqqah and Dayr al-Zawr governorates owing to lack of access.

64. In 2016, WHO has submitted 23 individual requests to the Government to deliver medical supplies to 86 locations in 10 governorates. The Government has approved six requests for 31 locations, one of which was to deliver medical supplies to Duma, in Rif Dimashq. Meanwhile, 17 requests for 55 locations remained unanswered.

65. The removal of life-saving medicines and medical supplies continued, with hundreds of treatments removed from convoys in May intended for Talbisah (Homs), eastern Harasta (Rif Dimashq) and Qadsiya (Rif Dimashq). Removed items included surgical supplies, anaesthetics, trauma kits, mental health medicines and burn kits. Supplies for an estimated 150,000 treatments have been removed from convoys since the beginning of the year.

Safety and security of staff and premises

66. A total of 29 United Nations staff members, 27 of whom are UNRWA area staff, as well as 1 from UNDP and 1 from UNICEF, continue to be detained or are missing. A total of 87 humanitarian workers have been killed in the conflict since March 2011: 17 staff members of the United Nations, 53 staff members and volunteers of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, 8 volunteers and staff members of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society and 9 staff members of international non-governmental organizations. Of the 87 killed, 2 have been killed since 1 January 2016.

III. Observations

67. I am deeply concerned by increased reports of indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks by all parties to the conflict, including designated terrorist groups, in particular the use of explosive weapons in densely populated areas. Medical facilities, markets and other public infrastructure continue to be attacked, causing widespread death and destruction. Such attacks must stop immediately. The parties to the conflict are failing to live up to their international legal obligations to protect civilians. The use of explosive weapons in populated areas not only kills and injures on a large scale, but also will have severe long-term humanitarian ramifications resulting from the destruction of the housing and essential infrastructure upon which civilians depend. No corner of the country has been left unscathed. As long as it continues, it will only force more and more people to leave their homes in a desperate search for safety.

68. Continuing violations and abuses of international human rights law by all the parties to the conflict remain of the highest concern. Large numbers of civilians continue to be held in government-run detention facilities, frequently without due process, subjected to terrible torture, and are being denied the right to a fair trial solely for having exercised their rights to freedom of speech, expression and peaceful assembly. At the same time, non-State armed opposition groups continue to arbitrarily deprive civilians of their liberty. Torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment seemingly aimed at maximizing suffering is often inflicted, along with killings of persons owing to their sexual orientation or perceived political affiliations. I condemn all such acts in the strongest terms as signs of a total disregard for basic human rights, which must cease immediately. There must be accountability for those and other violations. I repeat my call for the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic to be referred to the International Criminal Court.

69. It is vital that the momentum with respect to humanitarian access sustained over the past few months continues and be expanded into the second half of the year. To date, progress in 2016 has been slow, uneven and hard-won, especially in May. However, the challenges and setbacks notwithstanding, the humanitarian

community has collectively worked from every angle to press for access to besieged locations. Since January, we have reached more than 50 per cent of the people in 16 of the 19 besieged locations, many of those more than once. It is far from sufficient, however. Too many of those in need continue to be beyond our reach. We remain committed and ready to deliver aid, through any possible modality, for civilians in desperate need, whoever and wherever they are. I urge the members of the Security Council, especially those with influence, to do their utmost to ensure that all requests and approvals to access besieged locations are translated into humanitarian deliveries that help us to alleviate the suffering of Syrian civilians, including through the work of the International Syria Support Group. However, let me be clear: granting access should never be conditional, depend upon political negotiations or be used as a bargaining chip in talks. These are fundamental tenets of international humanitarian law and must be respected by the parties.

70. While I welcome the recent progress in reaching some besieged locations, I wish to make clear that a complete lifting of all sieges is required. That dozens of barrel bombs were reportedly dropped in Darayya on 10 June, the day after the United Nations and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivered the first food aid to the town since November 2012, shows that the situation for people in besieged areas will not be resolved by delivering humanitarian aid. The only sustainable solution for the 590,200 people trapped and forced to live in horrific circumstances is an end to the sieges. Besiegement is not a natural or necessary consequence of conflict; it is a deliberate policy of parties, and one that can be undone if the political will to do so can be mustered.

71. Humanitarian agencies in the Syrian Arab Republic continue to do their utmost to reach the millions of men, women and children in need of life-saving assistance throughout the country, the many access and security challenges notwithstanding. That aid is delivered at great personal risk, in particular by Syrian organizations and volunteers, who are often the first responders in a volatile and dangerous environment. It has come at a high cost, with 87 humanitarian workers having lost their lives and hundreds of medical workers having been killed, including many over the past few weeks. I pay tribute to their sacrifice and bravery.

72. There is no military solution to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. All are losing while the country is disappearing, bleeding and dying before our eyes. I urge the international community and Syrian stakeholders to restore and consolidate the cessation of hostilities and improve humanitarian access as soon as possible to all in need throughout the country. I welcome the readiness of the Co-Chairs of the International Syria Support Group Task Force on the Ceasefire, the Russian Federation and the United States, to provide a credible and transparent joint assessment of major attacks on civilians to the Support Group and the Security Council. I am also encouraged that the Co-Chairs have committed themselves to improving the monitoring of the cessation of hostilities, and to minimizing aviation operations over populated areas. Those steps, along with actions against listed terrorist groups, were endorsed by the Support Group. The efforts of the Support Group and individual Member States, as well as Syrians themselves, have shown what can be achieved when there is the political will to solve problems. I appeal to all not to give up, but to redouble efforts to bring an end to this horrifying conflict and to support my Special Envoy for Syria to facilitate a peaceful and political resolution.

Syrian Arab Republic: United Nations cross-border operations under UNSC resolutions 2165/2191/2258 (July 2014 to May 2016)*

OCHA

UN Security Council Resolution 2165/2191/2258

Through the unanimous adoption of resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015) until 10 January 2017, the UN Security Council has authorized UN agencies and their partners to use routes across conflict lines and the border crossings at Bab al-Salam, Bab al-Hawa, Al Yarubiyah and Al-Ramtha, to deliver humanitarian assistance, including medical and surgical supplies, to people in need in Syria. The government of Syria is notified in advance of each shipment and a UN monitoring mechanism has been established to oversee loading in neighboring countries and confirm the humanitarian nature of consignments.

Sector Classifications

Food: food baskets

NFIs: dignity kits, blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, mattresses, winterization kits, tarpaulins

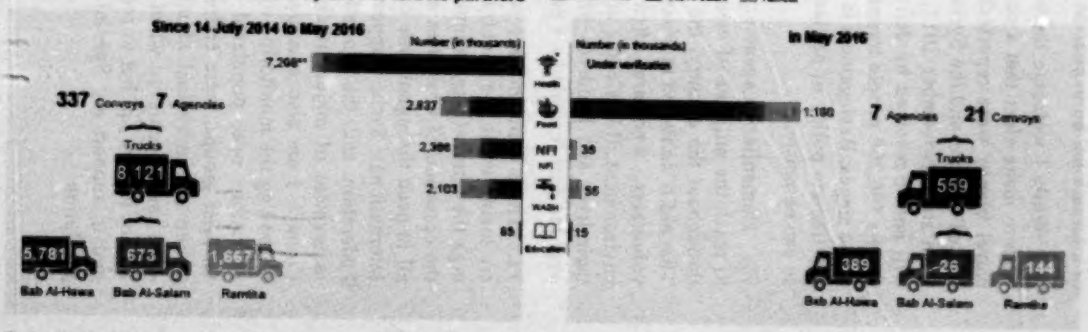
WASH: basic water kits for families, water purification tablets, hygiene kits for families and babies, sanitary napkins, diapers

Health: emergency health kits, surgical kits, reproductive health kits, midwifery kits, medical consumables

Education: recreational kits

Number of Beneficiaries Assisted by the UN and its partners

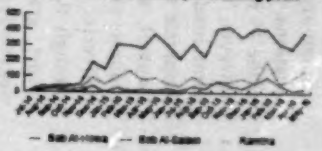
Bab Al-Hawa Bab Al-Salam Ramtha



Number of beneficiaries per month per sector

(in thousands)

Number of trucks per month per crossing point



Bab Al-Hawa — Bab Al-Salam — Ramtha

*Number of beneficiaries for health sector in May 2016 is under verification. **Number of beneficiaries for health sector since July 2014 to April 2016.

For feedback contact: Regional Office for the Syria Crisis (rohosyr@un.org) Creation date: 19 June 2016

Syrian Arab Republic: 2016 UN Inter-Agency Humanitarian Operations (as of 15 June 2016)*

OCHA

Since the beginning of 2016, the UN and partners successfully delivered multi-sectoral assistance through inter-agency operations, reaching over 844,000 civilians in besieged, hard-to-reach and other priority cross-line locations with dire humanitarian needs. Many of these people were reached more than once. A total of 53 UN inter-agency convoy have been undertaken, reaching over 725,000 people. UNRWA has also delivered 30 convoys with multi-sectoral assistance to 19,000 in YB6**, including thousands of residents in and from Yarmouk. In addition, through 55 WFP-led airdrops, 868 metric tons of food supplies have been delivered to besieged parts of western Deir-ez Zor city. These materials are sufficient to provide food rations for approximately 100,000 people in need for one month.

PEOPLE REACHED**

844,325

HTR AREAS	BESIEGED
497,675	296,650

XL PRIORITY CROSS-LINE***	CONVOYS	AIRDROPS
50,000	83	55

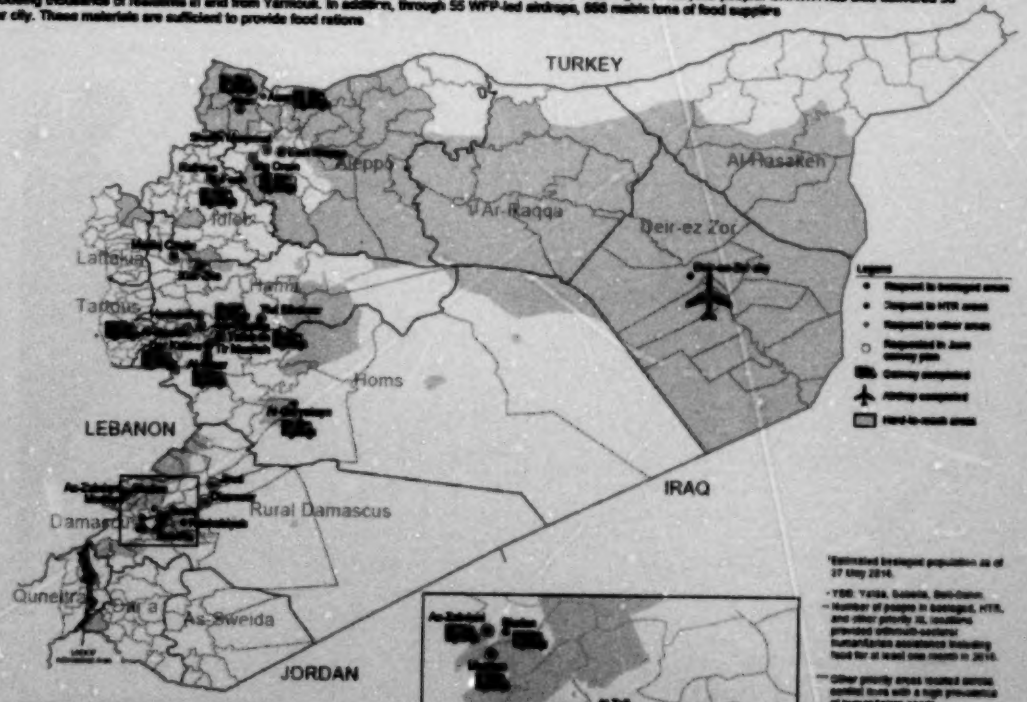
50% people reached in besieged areas

12.8% people reached in HTR areas

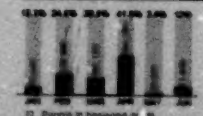
19 besieged locations reached

TIMELINE 2016

JAN	8 Operations to Al-Waer, 4 Towns****
FEB	18 Operations to Al-Waer, 4 Towns****, Kafr Batna town, Madamiyet Elsham, YB6*
MAR	21 Operations to 4 Towns****, Al-Hosha, Al-Waer, Big Oren, Sheikh, Kafr Batna sub-district, Madamiyet Elsham, YB6*
APR	31 Operations to Ashrfi, Aqabi, Deir-ez-Zor city, Kafr Batna sub-district, TP Madiah, YB6*, Al-Rastan, Talkalakh, 4 Towns****
MAY	43 Operations to Deir-ez-Zor city, Tafdnaz, Al-Ghariyahen, Sheikh, YB6* Kafr Harasta, Qudsaya, Hosh, Al-Hosh
JUN	17 Operations to Madamiyet Elsham, Darayya, Deir-ez-Zor city, Douma, Deir Kanfa



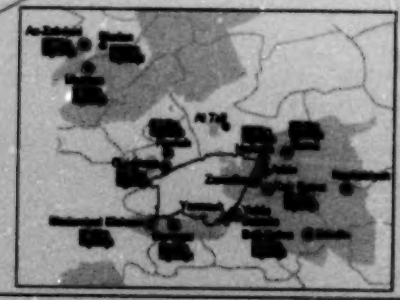
Number and percentage of people reached each month in besieged areas*



592,700*

Population in besieged areas

People in besieged as. a
People reached with food in besieged areas



*Estimated besieged population as of 27 May 2016.

** YB6: Yalda, Sbeineh, Beit Sahm.

*** Number of people in besieged, HTR, and other priority XL locations provided with multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance including food for at least one month in 2016.

**** Other priority areas reached across control lines with a high prevalence of humanitarian needs.

***** 4 Towns: Az-Zabadani, Madaya, Fuah & Kafraya.

† New number of people that received or still receive food assistance sufficient for one month within a 30-day period.
In the case of Deir-ez-Zor city beneficiaries of partial rations are counted as receiving new assistance once the planned food materials are delivered in full or a new round of deliveries begin.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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17/17

S/2016/536